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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/772,850
	Filing Date	February 5, 2004
	First Named Inventor	Thomas A. Trabold
	Art Unit	1745
	Examiner Name	Angela J. Martin
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	8540G-000238 Client Ref: GP304013

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Firm or Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.	Attorney Name David A. McLaughry	Reg. No. 37,885
Signature			
Date	June 6, 2005		

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/772,850
Filing Date: February 5, 2004
Applicant: Thomas A. Trabold et al.
Group Art Unit: 1745
Examiner: Angela J. Martin
Title: FLOW FIELD GEOMETRIES FOR IMPROVED WATER
MANAGEMENT
Attorney Docket: 8540G-000238 (Client Ref. No.: GP-304013)

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

This paper is in response to the Office Action mailed May 5, 2005 which imposes a species election requirement upon Applicants.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that the application contains claims directed to patentably distinct species of the claimed invention, namely Species I (claims 1 -18) drawn to a fuel cell having a water accumulation region and Species II (claim 19 and 20) drawn to a fuel cell having three water accumulation regions. Applicants respectfully traverses the Examiner's Species Election Requirement and

requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement in view of the reasons set forth below.

Applicants hereby provisionally elect Species I in response to this election requirement. Applicants submit that claims 1-18 are readable on Species I as identified by the Examiner and thus request examination of at least these claims. Furthermore, Applicants submit that claims 1-7 and 11-17 are generic.

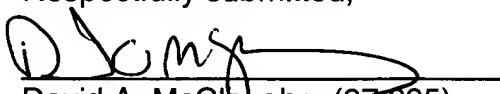
Applicants further submit that Species II as identified the Examiner is, in fact, a subspecies of Species I. In this regard, the fuel cell identified as Species II by the Examiner recites all of the limitations of the fuel cell identified as Species I by the Examiner. Applicant submits that the existence of additional water accumulation regions does not render the claimed fuel cell a different species, but rather merely a subspecies of the fuel cell identified by the Examiner as Species I. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw his election requirement.

Upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants note that they are entitled to consideration of claims directed to Species II which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. §1.141.

Prompt and favorable examination of this application is requested.

Dated: June 6, 2005

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Respectfully submitted,
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